### Michigan Deptartment of Treasury 496 (2-04) Auditing Procedures Report

Local Governi	ment Type	nship	∐Vill	lage	Other	Local Governm	ent Name			County	
Audit Date		<u> </u>	1	pinion Da			Date Accou	ntant Report Submit	ted to State:		
accordance	with th	e Sta	tement	s of th	ne Govern	mental Accou	unting Star		GASB) and th	e Uniform Rep	nents prepared in orting Format fo
We affirm t	hat:										
1. We have	e compl	ied wi	th the E	Bulletin	for the Au	ıdits of Local l	Units of Go	vernment in Mic	chigan as revise	d.	
2. We are	certified	publi	c accou	untants	registered	d to practice in	n Michigan.				
We further a			_		sponses h	ave been disc	closed in th	e financial state	ements, includir	g the notes, or i	n the report of
You must ch	neck the	applic	able bo	ox for e	ach item b	pelow.					
Yes	No	1. C	ertain (	compo	nent units/	/funds/agencie	es of the lo	cal unit are excl	uded from the f	inancial statem	ents.
Yes	No		here a 75 of 1		umulated (	deficits in one	e or more o	of this unit's un	reserved fund	palances/retaine	ed earnings (P.A
Yes	No		here a mende		ances of	non-complian	ce with the	Uniform Acco	unting and Bu	dgeting Act (P./	A. 2 of 1968, as
Yes	No		The local unit has violated the conditions of either an order issued under the Municipal Finance Act or its requirements, or an order issued under the Emergency Municipal Loan Act.								
Yes	No				-			do not comply amended [MC	=	requirements. (	P.A. 20 of 1943
Yes	No	6. T	he loca	al unit h	nas been d	delinquent in d	listributing	ax revenues that	at were collecte	d for another ta	ixing unit.
The local unit has violated the Constitutional requirement (Article 9, Section 24) to fund current year earned Yes No 7. pension benefits (normal costs) in the current year. If the plan is more than 100% funded and the overfunding credits are more than the normal cost requirement, no contributions are due (paid during the year).					d the overfunding						
Yes	Yes No 8. The local unit uses credit cards and has not adopted an applicable policy as required by P.A. 266 of 199 (MCL 129.241).					P.A. 266 of 1995					
Yes	No	9. T	he loca	al unit h	nas not ado	opted an inve	stment poli	cy as required b	y P.A. 196 of 1	997 (MCL 129.9	95).
We have e	nclosed	the fo	ollowin	ng:					Enclosed	To Be Forwarded	Not Required
The letter of	of comme	ents a	nd reco	ommen	dations.						
Reports on	individu	al fede	eral fina	ancial a	assistance	programs (pro	ogram aud	ts).			
Single Audit Reports (ASLGU).											
Certified Publi	ic Accounta	ant (Firn	n Name)								
Street Addres	S							City		State ZIP Coo	
Accountant Signature Date											

### HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY

REPORT ON AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

#### **HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY**

#### **AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS**

William Bamber - Chairperson Thomas Malloy - Vice Chairperson Mark Fosdick - Secretary Gary McCririe - Treasurer Michael Coddington - Trustee Robert Hanvey - Trustee

#### **OTHER AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS (non-voting)**

Barbara Souchick - Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

#### **ATTORNEY**

Gentry Law Offices, P.C.

#### **AUDITORS**

Pfeffer, Hanniford & Palka Certified Public Accountants

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	PAGE NUMBER
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT	
MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS	6
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Statement of Net Assets Statement of Activities	12 13
FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds  Reconciliation of Statement of Net Assets of Governmental Funds	15
to the Balance Sheet	16
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	17
Reconciliation of Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	18
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	20
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual General Fund Capital Reserve Equipment Fund	29 30
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION General Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, Other Financing Sources (Uses) and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget to Actual Statement of Revenues - Budget and Actual	32 33
Statement of Expenditures - Budget and Actual	34



### PFEFFER • HANNIFORD • PALKA Certified Public Accountants

John M. Pfeffer, C.P.A. Patrick M. Hanniford, C.P.A. Kenneth J. Palka, C.P.A.

Members: AICPA Private Practice Companies Section MACPA 225 E. Grand River - Suite 104 Brighton, Michigan 48116-1575 (810) 229-5550 FAX (810) 229-5578

September 26, 2005

Board of Trustees Howell Area Fire Authority 1211 W. Grand River Howell, Michigan 48843

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

#### Honorable Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Howell Area Fire Authority as of and for the year ended June 30, 2005. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Authority Board. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on the audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the government activities of the Howell Area Fire Authority, as of June 30, 2005, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year end in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis and other Required Supplementary Information on pages 6 - 9 and pages 29 and 30 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Howell Area Fire Authority's basic financial statements. The supplementary information presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The supplementary information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, fairly states in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Pfeffer, Hanniford & Palka, P.C.

PFEFFER, HANNIFORD & PALKA Certified Public Accountants

MANAGEMENT
DISCUSSION
AND
ANALYSIS

#### Management Discussion and Analysis June 30, 2005

Within this section of the Howell Area Fire Authority's annual financial report, the Authority's management is providing a narrative discussion and analysis of the financial activities of the Authority for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005. This narrative discusses and analyzes the activity within the context of the accompanying financial statements and disclosures following this section. The discussion focuses on the Authority's primary government and, unless otherwise noted, component units reported separately from the primary government are not included.

#### Overview of the Financial Statements

Management's Discussion and Analysis introduces the Authority's basic financial statements. The basic financial statements include government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements, and notes to the financial statements. The Authority also includes in this report additional information to supplement the basic financial statements.

#### Government-Wide Financial Statements

The Authority's annual reports include two government-wide financial statements. These statements provide both long-term and short-term information about the Authority's overall status. Financial reporting at this level uses a perspective similar to that found in the private sector with its basis in full accrual accounting and elimination or reclassification of internal activities.

The first of these government-wide statements is the Statement of Net Assets. This is the Authority-wide statement of position presenting information that includes all the Authority's assets and liabilities, with the difference reported as net assets. Over time, increases or decreases in net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Authority as a whole is improving or deteriorating. Evaluation of the overall health of the Authority may extend to various non-financial factors as well.

The second government-wide statement is the Statement of Activities which reports how the Authority's net assets changed during the current fiscal year. The design of this statement is to show the financial reliance of the Authority's distinct activities or functions on the revenues generated by the Authority.

Both government-wide financial statements distinguish governmental activities of the Authority that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges or by taxes collected. The Authority's financial reporting includes all the funds of the Authority and, additionally, organizations for which the Authority is accountable.

#### Fund Financial Statements

A fund is an accountable unit used to maintain control over resources segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Authority uses funds to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related laws and regulations.

The Authority has one kind of fund, governmental fund. Governmental funds are reported in the financial statements and encompass essentially the same functions as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements except with a different focus on the financial activity. These statements report short-term fiscal accountability focusing on the use of spendable resources and balances of these resources available at the end of the year. They are useful in evaluating annual financing requirements of governmental programs and the commitment of spendable resources for the near-term. Since the focus of the government-wide financial statements includes a long-term view, a reconciliation of these fund balances has been completed to detail it's relation to net assets.

#### Notes to the financial statements

The accompanying notes to the financial statements provide information essential to a full understanding of both the government-wide and fund financial statements.

#### Other information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information. Other supplementary information includes detail by fund for receivables, payables, transfers, and payments within the reporting entity.

#### Financial Analysis of the Authority as a Whole

The Authority has implemented the new financial reporting model used in this report beginning with the prior fiscal year ended June 30, 2004. Over time, as year-to-year financial information is accumulated on a consistent basis, changes in net assets may be observed and used to discuss the changing financial position of the Authority as a whole.

The Authority's net assets at the end of the fiscal year were \$1,673,203. This is a \$36,657 decrease over last year's net assets of \$1,709,860.

The following tables provide a summary of the Authority's financial activities and changes in net assets:

#### **Summary of Net Assets**

	Governmental Activities			
	06/30/2004	06/30/2005		
Current and other assets	\$ 597,929	\$ 765,154		
Capital assets	1,153,760	1,012,980		
Total assets	1,751,689	1,778,134		
Accounts payable	7,980	12,903		
Accrued expenses	33,849	36,679		
Capital leases payable		55,349		
Total liabilities	41,829	104,931		
Net assets:				
Invested in capital assets	1,153,760	957,631		
Unrestricted	556,100	715,572		
Total net assets	\$ 1,709,860	\$ 1,673,203		

#### **Summary of Changes in Net Assets**

	Governmental Activities		
	6/30/2004		
Revenues:	<del></del>		
Program revenues			
Charges for services	\$ 298,063	\$ 320,000	
Operating grants and contributions	154,755	16,783	
Capital contributions	475,520		
General revenues			
Fire millage	1,462,828	1,577,705	
Other	13,206	19,733	
Total revenues	2,404,372	1,934,221	
Expenses for fire protection	1,757,451	1,970,878	
Increase in net assets	646,921	(36,657)	
Beginning net assets	1,062,939	1,709,860	
Ending net assets	\$ 1,709,860	\$ 1,673,203	

#### Changes in Financial Status and Analysis of Authority's Fund

The decrease in net assets is partially a result of depreciation expense of \$140,780 (non-cash outlay). The net decrease of \$36,657 is close to a break-even when the type of entity is considered.

The prior year June 30, 2004 included contributions from member municipalities for the first six months of operations plus the first year of a five year millage rate at 1.10 mills.

Under fund accounting the Authority's overall fund balance increased \$159,472. This is the first year the Authority broke-out into a separate accounting fund the capital reserves. The Authority Board approved .10 mills of the total 1.10 mills go into a separate capital reserve fund to be used only for future capital outlay.

#### **Budgetary Highlights**

The budget originally adopted resembles the final amended budget with some small adjustments on the revenue side. This was due to the Authority subsequently finding it would not get \$29,000 from another municipality the Authority usually contracts fire services. The expenditures budget was not changed.

#### Capital Asset and Debt Administration

The Authority purchased equipment for \$5,735 paying cash and also purchased three vehicles for \$75,267 financed with a capital lease over a three year period.

#### Economic Conditions and Future Activities

Future operations will be funded primarily by property taxes collected. However, the Authority has dedicated 0.1 mills of these collections to be set aside for future capital improvements. For the year ended June 30, 2005 a total of \$138,160 was collected for these improvements. This amount is expected to increase slightly every year due to increases in the tax base.

#### Contacting the Authority's Financial Management

This report is designed to provide a general overview of the Authority's financial position and comply with financerelated regulations. If you have any further questions about this report or request additional information please contact the Howell Area Fire Authority at 1211 W. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS GOVERNMENT - WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS JUNE 30, 2005

	Primary Government - Governmental Activities					
<u>ASSETS</u>	_					
Cash and cash equivalents				\$	712,323	
Accounts receivable					13,280	
Prepaid expenses					39,551	
Capital assets						
Machinery and equipment	9	5	433,812			
Vehicles			2,269,588			
Leasehold improvements			7,278			
Less accumulated depreciation	_		(1,697,698)			
Net capital assets					1,012,980	
Total assets					1,778,134	
<u>LIABILITIES</u>						
Accounts payable					12,903	
Accrued wages					9,329	
Accrued vacation and sick					27,350	
Capital leases payable						
Current portion					17,583	
Non-current portion					37,766	
Total liabilities					104,931	
NET ASSETS						
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt					957,631	
Unrestricted					715,572	
Total net assets				\$	1,673,203	

#### HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

		Program Revenues		
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Net Governmental <u>Activities</u>
Governmental activities: Fire protection Interest on long-term debt	\$ (1,970,528) (350)	\$ 320,000	\$ 16,783	\$ (1,633,745) (350)
Total	<u>\$ (1,970,878</u> )	\$ 320,000	<u>\$ 16,783</u>	(1,634,095)
	General Revenues: Millage, levied for general purpose Interest income Other income			1,577,705 12,007 7,726
Total general revenues			l revenues	1,597,438
		Change in n	et assets	(36,657)
		Net assets at be	ginning of year	1,709,860
		Net assets at en	d of year	\$ 1,673,203

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS JUNE 30, 2005

	Major Funds				
<u>ASSETS</u>	<u> </u>	eneral	F	Capital Reserve quipment Fund	Total
<u> </u>					
ASSETS Cash and cash equivalents Accounts receivable	\$	579,145 13,280	\$	133,178	\$ 712,323 13,280
Due from other funds				5,312	5,312
Prepaid expenditures		<u> 39,551</u>			 39,551
Total assets	\$	631,976	\$	138,490	\$ 770,466
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE					
LIABILITIES					
Accounts payable	\$	12,042	\$		\$ 12,042
Accrued wages		9,329			9,329
Accrued vacation and sick		27,350			27,350
Accrued pension and withholding  Due to other funds		861 5 313			861
Due to other funds		5,312			 5,312
Total liabilities		54,894			 54,894
FUND BALANCES					
Unreserved		560,837			560,837
Designated		<u> 16,245</u>		138,490	 <u>154,735</u>
Total fund balances		577,082		138,490	 715,572
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$	631,976	\$	138,490	\$ 770,466

### HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY RECONCILIATION OF STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30 2005

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Assets are different because:

Total fund balance per balance sheet

\$ 715,572

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore, are not reported in the funds.

 Historical cost
 \$ 2,710,678

 Depreciation
 (1,697,698)

Capital assets net of depreciation 1,012,980

Some liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. These include: Capital leases payable

<u>(55,349</u>)

\$ 1,673,203

Net assets of governmental activities

## HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

	Major Funds				_	
	<u>G</u>	General	Re Equ	apital eserve uipment Fund		Total
REVENUES Fire millage Donations Charges for services Grant - federal Interest Miscellaneous	\$	1,577,705 7,271 320,000 9,512 11,677 7,726	\$	330	\$	1,577,705 7,271 320,000 9,512 12,007 7,726
Total revenues		<u>1,933,891</u>		330		1,934,221
EXPENDITURES Personnel Capital outlay Other fire protection expenditures  Total expenditures		1,291,722 93,980 464,314 1,850,016				1,291,722 93,980 464,314 1,850,016
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures		83,875		330		84,205
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) Lease proceeds Transfers in Transfers (out)		75,267 (138,160)		138,160		75,267 138,160 (138,160)
Total other financing sources (uses)		(62,893)		138,160		75,267
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures and other financing sources (uses)		20,982		138,490		159,472
FUND BALANCE, JULY 1, 2004		556,100				556,100
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30, 2005	\$	577,082	\$	138,490	\$	715,572

### HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY RECONCILIATION OF STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Net change in fund balances - governmental funds

\$ 159,472

Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities the cost of those assets are allocated over their useful lives as depreciation expense. The amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation is as follows:

Capital outlay \$ 81,002 Depreciation expense (221,782)

Total (140,780)

Repayment of capital lease debt is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Assets

Repayment of:

Capital leases payable 19,918

Proceeds from long-term debt provide current financial resources to governmental funds, but the issuing of debt increase long-term liabilities in the Statement of Activities

Proceeds from capital leases (75,267)

Change in net assets of governmental activities \$ (36,657)

NOTES

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FINANCIAL

STATEMENTS

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. REPORTING ENTITY

The Howell Area Fire Authority was organized under Public Act No. 57, of the Public Acts of 1988, as amended in December of 2001. The Authority approved a fiscal year-end date of June 30. The purpose of the Authority is to provide fire protection and other emergency health and safety services. The governing board of the Authority is made up of six board members. Five of those board members come from the following incorporating municipalities:

- City of Howell
- Cohoctah Township
- Marion Township
- Oceola Township
- Howell Township

The sixth board member comes from Genoa Township which is not an incorporating municipality. A portion of Genoa Township is served by the Howell Area Fire Authority (Genoa Township is an incorporating municipality of the Brighton Area Fire Authority which contracts with the Howell Area Fire Authority). Each board member is selected by its respective municipality board of trustees.

The six board members appoint its own officers as well as select one additional non-voting member for the position of assistant treasurer and assistant secretary.

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 39 "The Financial Reporting Entity", these financial statements present all activities of the Authority. There are no component units of the Authority using the criteria established by the GASB for determining the reporting entity.

#### B. BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 34 - Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments, the basic financial statements include both government-wide and fund financial statements.

The government-wide financial statements (Statement of net Assets and Statement of Activities) report on the Authority as a whole. All activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, which includes long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The government-wide financial statements focus more on the sustainability of the Authority as an entity and the change in aggregate financial position resulting from the activities of the fiscal period.

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (continued)

The government-wide Statement of Net Assets reports all financial and capital resources of the Authority. It is displayed in a format of assets less liabilities equals net assets, with the assets and liabilities shown in order of their relative liquidity.

The government-wide Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which both direct and indirect expenses of the various functions and programs of the Authority are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or identifiable activity. Indirect expenses for administrative overhead are allocated among the functions and activities using a full cost allocation approach and are presented separately to enhance comparability of direct expenses between governments that allocate direct expenses and those that do not. Program revenues include: 1) charges to customers or users who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a particular function or program and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Taxes, unrestricted investment income and other revenues not identifiable with particular functions or programs are included as general revenues. The general revenues support the net costs of the functions and programs not covered by program revenues.

Also, part of the basic financial statements are fund financial statements for the governmental funds. The focus of the fund financial statements is on major funds, as defined by GASB Statement No. 34. Although this reporting model sets forth minimum criteria for determination of major funds (a percentage of assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures of fund category and of the governmental funds combined), it also gives governments the option of displaying other funds as major funds. Other non-major funds are combined in a single column on the fund financial statements.

The Authority reports the following major governmental funds:

The General Fund is the Authority's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The Capital Reserve Equipment Fund accounts for the activity associated with the acquisition of capital assets. This fund is supported by the General Fund transfers.

#### C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS AND BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The governmental fund financial statements are prepared on a current financial resources measurement focus and modified accrual basis of accounting. To conform to the modified accrual basis of accounting, certain modifications must be made to the accrual method. These modifications are outlined below:

1. Revenue is recorded when it becomes both measurable and available (received within 60 days after year-end). Revenue considered susceptible to accrual includes: property taxes, sales and use taxes, transient occupancy taxes, licenses, fees and permits, intergovernmental revenues (including motor vehicle license fees), charges for services, fines, forfeits and penalties, and interest.

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (continued)

- 2. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred. Principal and interest on general long-term debt are recorded as fund liabilities when due or when amounts have been accumulated in the debt service fund for payments to be made early in the following year.
- 3. Disbursement for the purchase of capital assets providing future benefits are considered expenditures. Any bond proceeds are reported as another financing source.

With this measurement focus, operating statements present increases and decreases in net current assets and unreserved fund balance as a measure of available spendable resources.

This is the traditional basis of accounting for governmental funds and also is the manner in which these funds are normally budgeted. This presentation is deemed most appropriate to: 1) demonstrate legal and covenant compliance, 2) demonstrate the sources and uses of liquid resources, and 3) demonstrate how the Authority's actual revenues and expenditures conform to the annual budget. Since the governmental funds financial statements are presented on a different basis than the governmental activities column of the government-wide financial statements, a reconciliation is provided immediately following each fund statement. These reconciliations briefly explain the adjustments necessary to transform the fund financial statements into the governmental activities column of the government-wide financial statements.

#### D. <u>CAPITAL ASSETS</u>

Under GASB Statement No. 34, all capital assets are recorded and depreciated in the government-wide financial statements. No long-term capital assets or depreciation are shown in the governmental funds financial statements.

Capital assets are defined as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life greater than one year. Capital assets are recorded at cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized. Major improvements are capitalized and depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets.

#### E. <u>MANAGEMENT ESTIMATES</u>

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (continued)

#### F. <u>BUDGETS</u>

An annual operating budget on the modified accrual basis of accounting consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America is formally adopted for the General and Capital Reserve Funds. The budget can be amended by approval from the Authority's Board and the member municipalities. The budget amounts shown in the financial statements are the final authorized amounts as revised during the year. All annual appropriations lapse at the fiscal year end.

#### G. <u>RISK MANAGEMENT</u>

The Authority is exposed to various risks of loss pertaining to property loss, torts, errors and omissions, and employee injuries (workers' compensation), as well as medical benefits provided to employees. The Authority has purchased commercial insurance for these claims. Settled claims related to the commercial insurance have not exceeded the amount of insurance coverage.

#### H. <u>ACCRUED COMPENSATED ABSENCES</u>

The Authority has recorded a liability for compensated absences of the fire department. The policies regarding compensated absences are outlined in the Authority's "Rules of Employment".

#### **NOTE 2 - CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2005 was as follows:

	Balances 7-01-04	Additions	Deletions	Balances 6-30-05
Equipment Leasehold improvements	\$ 428,077 7,278	\$ 5,735	\$	\$ 433,812 7,278
Vehicles	2,194,321	75,267		2,269,588
	2,629,676	81,002		2,710,678
Accumulated depreciation	(1,475,916)	(221,782)		(1,697,698)
Governmental activities capital asset, net	\$ 1,153,760	\$ (140,780)	\$	\$ 1,012,980

Depreciation expense is being recorded solely for fire protection services. The Authority utilizes the straight line method to depreciate capital assets over their estimated useful lives. There was \$55,349 of capital lease long-term debt associated with these assets.

#### **NOTE 3 - CAPITAL LEASE PAYABLE**

The Authority has entered into a capital lease with Ford Motor Credit Company to finance the purchase of three Ford Expedition vehicles. The lease calls for annual payments of \$20,268 with an interest rate of 4.85% included with each annual payment. The lease expires during the year ended June 30, 2008.

	Balance at 7-1-04	Lease <u>Proceeds</u>	Principle <u>Paid</u>	Balance at 6-30-05
Capital lease payable Ford Motor Credit	<u>\$</u>	\$ 75,267	\$ 19,91 <u>8</u>	\$ 55,34 <u>9</u>

The following is a schedule of principle and interest payments to service the capital lease obligations of the Authority:

	Capital Lease Payable			
	P	rinciple	<u>In</u>	terest
2005-2006 2006-2007 2007-2008	\$	17,583 18,436 19,330		2,684 1,832 938
Total	\$	55,349	\$	5,454

#### NOTE 4 - LEASE AGREEMENTS - (BUILDINGS)

The Authority has lease agreements for buildings which house offices, equipment and vehicles. The following is a schedule of lease terms and lessors:

LESSOR	LEASE TERMS - JULY 1, 2004 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2005
City of Howell - Fire station and sub-station (2 buildings)	Lease charge is \$68,702
2. Marion Township - Fire Station	Lease charge is \$19,658
3. Cohoctah Township - Fire Station	Lease charge is \$12,000
4. Oceola Township - Fire Station	Lease charge is \$23,652
5. Genoa Township - Fire Station	Lease charge is \$17,176

These leases are renewed annually. The Authority does not expect a significant variance in annual commitments for the lease terms for the year ending June 30, 2006.

### NOTE 5 - DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN - MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MERS)

The Authority provides a defined benefit pension plan under MERS. MERS is an agent multiple-employer, state-wide, defined benefit public employee retirement plan created under Public Act 135 of 1945 and now operates under Public Act 220 of 1996. MERS was established by the State of Michigan for purposes of providing retirement, survivor and disability benefits on a voluntary basis to the State's local government employees. Under Public Act 220, MERS became an independent public non-profit corporation independent from State government. The effective date of independence was August 16, 1996, at which time MERS ceased to be a part of the State of Michigan, Department of Management and Budget.

As of June 30, 2005 the Authority had four covered employees and 82 total employees. Covered and total payrolls for the year then ended was \$187,775 and \$1,032,137 respectively. Currently there are no retirants receiving benefits from the plan. Total employer contributions made to the plan during the year ended was \$24,257.

At December 31, 2004, the unfunded pension liability was \$116,526, determined as follows:

#### **Actuarial Accrued Liability**

Retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	\$ 0
Terminated employees not yet receiving benefits	0
Current employees - Accumulated employee contributions including allocated investment income	20,471
Employer financed	 288,151
Total actuarial accrued liability	308,622
Net assets available for benefits at actuarial value	 192,096
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability	\$ 116,526

### NOTE 5 - DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN - MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MERS) – (continued)

The combined change in the pension benefit resulting from benefit changes, if any, and revisions in actuarial assumptions is 0.053632.

#### **Analysis of Funding Progress**

Valuation Date December 31	Net Assets Available for Benefits	Pension Benefit Obligation (PBO)	Percent Funded (1)/(2)	Unfunded (Overfunded) PBO (2)-(1)	Annual Covered Payroll	Unfunded PBO as a % of Covered Payroll
2004	\$ 192,096	\$ 308,622	62%	\$ 116,526	\$ 187,775	62%

#### NOTE 6 - EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN

The Authority participates in an I.C.M.A. Defined Contribution Pension Plan for Michigan Authority employees. This is a single-employer plan. During the year ended June 30, 2005 only full time employees were eligible to participate in the plan, including the Fire Chief. The Authority contributes a stated amount of \$9,731 annually for the benefit of the Fire Chief. There were no employer contributions made on behalf of other employees during the year ended June 30, 2005.

Beginning in the year ended June 30, 2006, all full-time, part time, and on call employees will be eligible to participate in the plan, with the Authority matching 2% of employee contributions.

TOTAL CURRENT YEAR EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

\$ 9.731

TOTAL CURRENT YEAR EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS

\$ 6,869

These balances reflect contributions for the period from June 1,2004 to June 30, 2005.

#### NOTE 7 - DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INVESTMENTS

Michigan Compiled Laws, Section 129.91, authorizes the Authority to deposit and invest in the accounts of federally insured banks, credit unions, and savings and loan associations; bonds, securities and other direct obligations of the United States, or any agency or instrumentality of the United States; United States government or Federal agency obligation repurchase agreements; bankers; acceptance of United States banks; commercial paper rated by two standard rating agencies within the two highest classifications, which mature not more than 270 days after the date of purchase; obligations of the State of Michigan or its political subdivisions which are rated investment grade; and mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan. Financial institutions eligible for deposit of public funds must maintain an office in Michigan. The Authority deposits are in accordance with statutory authority. The Authority maintains an imprest petty cash balance of \$250.

#### NOTE 7 - DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INVESTMENTS - (continued)

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3 risk disclosures for the Authority's deposits are as follows:

<u>Deposits</u>	Carrying Amount	Bank <u>Balance</u>
Insured Uninsured and uncollateralized	\$ 100,000 \$ <u>612,073</u>	100,000 <u>638,282</u>
	\$ 712,073	<u>\$ 738,282</u>

#### NOTE 8 - DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE

As of June 30, 2005 the Authority's fund balance was designated for the following purposes:

<ul> <li>Capital reserved</li> </ul>	\$ 138,490
<ul> <li>Fire Safety House</li> </ul>	5,740
• K-9	2,321
Dive Team	 8,184
Total	\$ 154,735

The designated balance is a net result of outside donations and expenditures for the above purposes, except for the capital reserved. The capital reserved balance represents a portion of the property taxes to be designated for future capital purchases.

REQUIRED
SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION

# HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

	Bı	udget		Variance with Final Budget Favorable
	Original	Final	Actual	(Unfavorable)
REVENUES Fire millage Donations	\$ 1,466,436	\$ 1,466,436	\$ 1,577,705 7,271	\$ 111,269 7,271
Interest Grant	2,400	2,400	11,677 9,512	9,277 9,512
Charges for services Miscellaneous	369,000	340,000	320,000 7,726	(20,000) 7,726
Total revenues	1,837,836	1,808,836	1,933,891	125,055
EXPENDITURES	1,742,648	1,742,648	1,850,016	(107,368)
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>95,188</u>	<u>66,188</u>	<u>83,875</u>	17,687
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) Capital lease proceeds	(400.440)	(400.440)	75,267	75,267
Transfers out	<u>(133,148</u> )	<u>(133,148</u> )	<u>(138,160</u> )	(5,012)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(133,148)	(133,148)	(62,893)	70,255
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures and other				
financing sources (uses)	(37,960)	(66,960)	20,982	87,942
FUND BALANCE, JULY 1, 2004	556,100	<u>556,100</u>	556,100	
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30, 2005	<u>\$ 518,140</u>	\$ 489,140	\$ 577,082	\$ 87,942

# HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY CAPITAL RESERVE EQUIPMENT FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

	Budgets			Variance with Final Budget	
	Original	Final	Actual	Favorable (Unfavorable)	
REVENUES Interest	\$	\$	\$ 330	\$ 330	
EXPENDITURES					
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures			330	330	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES Transfers in	133,148	133,148	138,160	5,012	
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures and other financing sources	133,148	133,148	138,490	5,342	
FUND BALANCE, JULY 1, 2004					
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30, 2005	\$ 133,14 <u>8</u>	\$ 133,14 <u>8</u>	\$ 138,490	\$ 5,34 <u>2</u>	

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY GENERAL FUND

### STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET TO ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

	Amended Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES	<u>\$ 1,808,836</u>	<u>\$ 1,933,891</u>	\$ 125,05 <u>5</u>
EXPENDITURES Personnel Professional fees Insurance - liability Supplies Equipment and capital outlay Communications Uniforms Training Repairs and maintenance Unallocated City station #20 Marion street substation #21 Oceola fire station #22	1,152,433 83,000 31,000 35,000 44,903 19,000 34,900 31,500 51,000 38,774 82,644 21,408 38,702	1,291,722 56,722 19,781 37,372 93,980 8,170 20,218 21,026 41,151 48,005 82,606 21,299 39,113	(139,289) 26,278 11,219 (2,372) (49,077) 10,830 14,682 10,474 9,849 (9,231) 38 109 (411)
Marion township station #23 Cohoctah township station #24 Genoa township station #34	30,658 23,550 <u>24,176</u>	26,906 20,937 <u>21,008</u>	3,752 2,613 <u>3,168</u>
Total expenditures	1,742,648	1,850,016	(107,368)
Net revenues over (under) expenditures	66,188	<u>83,875</u>	<u>17,687</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) Capital lease proceeds Transfers (out)	(133,148)	75,267 (138,160)	75,267 (5,012)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(133,148)	(62,893)	70,255
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures and other financing sources (uses)	(66,960)	20,982	87,942
FUND BALANCE, JULY 1, 2004	<u>556,100</u>	<u>556,100</u>	
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30, 2005	<u>\$ 489,140</u>	<u>\$ 577,082</u>	<u>\$ 87,942</u>

# HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

	Amended <u>Budget</u>	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES			
Fire Millage			
City of Howell	\$ 317,273	\$ 330,105	\$ 12,832
Howell Township	284,041	298,419	14,378
Marion Township	300,375	338,960	38,585
Oceola Township	334,196	362,702	28,506
Cohoctah Township	97,403	104,091	6,688
Reserved for capital replacement	133,148	143,428	10,280
Grant - Homeland Security		9,512	9,512
Genoa Township contract	320,000	320,000	
Deerfield Township - contract	20,000	•	(20,000)
Interest income	2,400	11,677	9,277
Miscellaneous revenue		7,726	7,726
Donations		7,271	7,271
Total revenues	<u>\$ 1,808,836</u>	<u>\$ 1,933,891</u>	<u>\$ 125,055</u>

# HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

	Amended <u>Budget</u>	Actual	Variance Favorable <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
PERSONNEL Salaries - fire personnel Salaries - board Payroll taxes Health insurance Disability insurance Worker compensation insurance Unemployment insurance Pension	\$	\$ 1,045,311 5,325 78,938 56,426 14,485 54,504 1,047 35,686	\$
Total personnel	<u>1,152,433</u>	1,291,722	(139,289)
PROFESSIONAL FEES Payroll administration Accounting services Fowlerville fire protection Auditor fees Computer support Attorney fees		8,018 5,160 30,504 9,765 305 2,970	
Total professional fees	83,000	 56,722	26,278
INSURANCE General liability	31,000	 <u> 19,781</u>	<u>11,219</u>
SUPPLIES Office supplies Food and beverage Postage Operating supplies		 3,718 1,228 1,151 31,275	
Total supplies	35,000	 37,372	(2,372)
EQUIPMENT AND CAPITAL OUTLAY Small equipment Office furniture Capital outlay - trucks Computer equipment		 10,591 5,796 75,267 2,326	
Total equipment and capital outlay	44,903	 93,980	(49,077)

# HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

	Amended Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
COMMUNICATIONS Pagers and radios Cellular phones		1,465 <u>6,705</u>	
Total communications	19,000	8,170	10,830
UNIFORMS Clothing allowance Protective clothing		4,328 15,890	
Total uniforms	34,900	20,218	14,682
TRAINING Public teaching Community promotion Seminars and conferences Educational supplies		14,165 3,433 2,900 528	
Total training	31,500	21,026	10,474
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE Repairs and maintenance - equipment Repairs and maintenance - radios Repairs and maintenance - vehicles  Total repairs and maintenance		7,103 1,107 <u>32,941</u> 41,151	9,849
UNALLOCATED Capital lease (principal and interest) - vehicles Mileage Physicals and examinations Bank charges Dues and memberships Printing and publications Purchases from donations Hazardous material projects Tax chargebacks		20,268 3,007 1,664 15 915 3,790 7,772 9,745 829	5,5.0
Total unallocated	38,774	48,005	(9,231)

# HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

	Amended Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
CITY STATION #20 Grounds maintenance Telephone Utilities Repairs and maintenance Lease - building		2,500 6,082 16,137 2,343 55,544	
Total city station #20	82,644	82,606	38
MARION STREET SUBSTATION #21 Grounds maintenance Telephone Utilities Repairs and maintenance Lease - building		3,108 351 3,682 1,000 13,158	
Total Marion Street substation #21	21,408	21,299	109
OCEOLA FIRE STATION #22 Grounds maintenance Telephone Utilities Repairs and maintenance Lease - buildings		1,858 28 11,571 2,004 23,652	
Total Oceola fire station #22	38,702	39,113	<u>(411</u> )
MARION TOWNSHIP STATION #23 Grounds maintenance Telephone Utilities Repairs and maintenance Lease - building		296 499 4,195 2,258 19,658	0.750
Total Marion Township station #23	30,658	26,906	3,752

# HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

	Amended Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
COHOCTAH TOWNSHIP STATION #24 Grounds maintenance Telephone Utilities Repairs and maintenance Lease - buildings		2,248 640 3,658 2,391 12,000	
Total Cohoctah Township station #24	23,550	20,937	2,613
GENOA TOWNSHIP STATION #34 Telephone Utilities Lease - buildings		682 3,150 17,176	
Total Genoa Township station #34	24,176	21,008	3,168
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 1,742,648</u>	<u>\$ 1,850,016</u>	<u>\$ (107,368</u> )

#### HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY

COMMENTS

AND

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005



### PFEFFER • HANNIFORD • PALKA Certified Public Accountants

John M. Pfeffer, C.P.A. Patrick M. Hanniford, C.P.A. Kenneth J. Palka, C.P.A.

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September 26, 2005

Board of Trustees Howell Area Fire Authority 1211 W. Grand River Howell, Michigan 48843

#### Honorable Board of Trustees:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Howell Area Fire Authority for the year ended June 30, 2005, we considered the Authority's internal control in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control.

However, during our audit we became aware of several matters that are opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. Those matters are as follows:

#### 1. COMMENT

The Authority is billed by the City of Howell for health insurance (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) because the Authority is covered under the City's plan. Several bills from the City did not provide a breakdown of employees for whom the Authority was being billed.

#### RECOMMENDATION

We suggest the Authority request a breakdown of employees for whom the Authority is paying health insurance on behalf.

#### 2. COMMENT

While auditing payroll we found the payroll company was including on-call fire personnel names and wages on the quarterly unemployment tax reports. The State of Michigan considers on-call fire personnel as "volunteer" and therefore should not receive unemployment compensation if the employee is terminated from employment at the Authority or employment with another employer. Since the names are being included on the quarterly wage reports, these employees are given a benefit (if terminated) not deserved which the Authority is paying.

#### RECOMMENDATION

When the Authority calls in payroll to its payroll company, he or she needs to specifically inform the payroll company not to include on-call payroll personnel on the quarterly unemployment report which is sent to the State of Michigan.

#### 3. COMMENT

Under the Authority's articles it is required to have all member municipalities' boards approve budgets. This can be a very timely process.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Since the Authority is now financed through a tax millage, the Authority may wish to have the Articles of Incorporation be amended to allow the Authority Board to approve all budgets and amended budgets. This would give the Authority more flexibility for economic realities.

This letter does not affect our report dated September 26, 2005 on the financial statements of the Howell Area Fire Authority.

We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed these comments and recommendations with various Authority personnel, and we will be pleased to discuss it in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Trustees, and management of the Howell Area Fire Authority and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified parties.

PFEFFER, HANNIFORD & PALKA

Pfeffer, Hanniford & Palka, P.C.

Certified Public Accountants